UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ICEF/1997/16
25 March 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

FOR ACTION

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Executive Board
Annual session 1997
2-6 June 1997
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL PROTECTION MEASURES: REPORT ON STEPS FOR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

SUMMARY

The present report was prepared in response to Executive Board decision 1996/27 (E/ICEF/1996/12/Rev.1), which requested the secretariat to report back to the Executive Board at the present session on steps taken to implement UNICEF policies and strategies for children in need of special protection measures.

The report outlines a two-pronged strategy for measures to protect children from exploitation, violence, abuse, abandonment and other situations of disadvantage: mainstreaming of sectoral programmes; and support for special protection measures when required. The implementation plan, a key component of the evolving child rights approach to programming, focuses on the establishment of technical support networks to ensure support to Governments in addressing special protection issues. Specific steps under way to enhance programmatic responses in the relevant areas are highlighted, including the revision of guidelines and the strengthening of strategic partnerships with Governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations.

The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board adopt the draft recommendation contained in paragraph 56.

* E/ICEF/1997/13.

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
INTRODUCTION	1 - 4	3
I. APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE SPECIAL PROTECTION STRATEGY	5 - 17	3
A. Programming framework	5 - 9	3
B. Implementation steps	10 - 17	4
II. COUNTRY PROGRAMMING	18 - 29	7
A. Revision of programming instruments	20 - 22	7
B. Building partnerships for sustainability	23 - 29	7
III. UNICEF ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT IN SELECTED SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS	30 - 50	9
A. Economic exploitation of children	30 - 34	9
B. The impact of armed conflict on children	35 - 40	10
C. Sexual abuse and exploitation of children	41 - 43	11
D. Childhood disability	44 - 45	12
E. Deficient judicial processes/juvenile justice	46 - 49	12
F. New country-level project initiatives	50	13
IV. ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT	51 - 55	13
A. Regional centres of technical support	51 - 52	13
B. New York advisory team	53 - 55	14
V. DRAFT RECOMMENDATION	56	15

INTRODUCTION

1. At its 1996 annual session in June, the Executive Board reviewed document E/ICEF/1996/14, "A review of UNICEF policies and strategies on child protection", and adopted decision 1996/27 (E/ICEF/1996/12/Rev.1), which established a policy for UNICEF action on behalf of children in need of special protection measures. The concept of "special protection measures" was developed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to guide States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in responding to situations such as war and violence, exploitation, abuse, separation from family, detention or imprisonment, and disability. The policy moves beyond the categorization of children implied in the 1986 policy review and supporting documents on children in especially difficult circumstances (E/ICEF/1986/L.3 and E/ICEF/1986/L.6 and E/ICEF/1996/CRP.2 - E/ICEF/1996/CRP.4) and provides for special protection measures for children in situations of severe disadvantage. The policy is grounded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and its principles and provisions are reflected in the proposed strategies and activities.

2. While the Convention is an instrument for the protection of the rights of all children, the policy specifically addresses the protection of the rights of children in situations of severe disadvantage. The overall protection of children and childhood, ensuring both their civil and political rights as well as their social, economic and cultural rights, and providing opportunities for their survival and development, is relevant for all children in any situation, including those in situations of special disadvantage.

3. The policy report highlights six common and widespread sets of often interrelated and overlapping circumstances which put the rights and well-being of millions of children worldwide in severe jeopardy or result in exploitation, abuse or neglect. These are: (a) harmful and disabling child labour; (b) warfare and other forms of organized and large-scale violence; (c) sexual abuse and exploitation of children; (d) childhood disabilities; (e) temporary or permanent loss of family and/or primary caregivers; and (f) deficient laws and abusive legal and judicial processes.

4. The policy outlines a two-pronged strategy for addressing the situations of severely disadvantaged children. Firstly, the mainstream of social services should be adapted to reach and provide support to children at risk since gross violations of children's rights are often associated with overall poverty and inadequacies of social services. Secondly, targeted initiatives to reach disadvantaged children who are missed by, or left out of, mainstream programmes need to be put in place.

I. APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE SPECIAL PROTECTION STRATEGY

A. Programming framework

5. The identification and assessment of potentially harmful situations is the basis for the design of appropriate basic services and protection measures for children at risk. For children who are already exposed to situations that are harmful to their development and well-being, special protection measures are required to compensate for the harm and to enable these children to have access to all basic services and overall protection. Consequently, UNICEF will focus increasingly on those severely disadvantaged children.

6. Factors such as the outbreak of large-scale violence, societal customs which discriminate against, exploit or abuse children, or gender bias with regard to customary law or inadequate legislation which produce specific risks for children need to be identified and addressed through strengthened protection measures. Examples of such measures include preventing children from being separated from their families during war-related displacement or support for legislative reform to prevent economic or sexual exploitation of children.

7. Support for the improvement of social services through the country programme needs to be targeted to also reach and benefit severely disadvantaged children. Too often the basic rights of those children, such as the rights to a name and nationality, as well as their rights to survival and development, including access to appropriate health care, nutrition and education, are violated. The adaptation of mainstream programmes to reach such children will decrease their risks of becoming exploited, abused and neglected. Several country programmes already have developed such strategies through area-based or urban basic services programmes designed to reach severely disadvantaged families, children and adolescents.

8. Specific targeted responses for children already exposed to situations that harm their development are needed to provide compensatory support and rehabilitation services. UNICEF, along with its partners, needs to improve its own capacity and further develop its understanding and methods to support children in such situations. Methods, indicators and instruments are needed to identify and assess harmful situations as well as to assess the nature and extent of the harm already inflicted on children and youth. Some examples are the reunification of children separated from their families in Rwanda; the demobilization/social reintegration of child soldiers in Sierra Leone; and the removal of children from hazardous work and the provision of educational services for working children in Bangladesh. UNICEF responses in emergencies specifically address special protection for children affected by armed conflict or organized violence.

9. For implementation of the policy, a two-pronged strategy is proposed for country programmes of cooperation:

(a) To bring preventive measures into the mainstream of social sector programmes such as education and health to reach those children at risk of falling into situations of special disadvantage;

(b) To provide special protection measures for compensation and recovery for children already exposed to situations that harm their development and require compensatory and enabling support.

B. Implementation steps

10. To incorporate this two-pronged strategy into UNICEF country programmes, the following country, regional and global efforts are under way:

(a) Revision of existing guidelines for situation analyses, formulation of programme strategies, preparation of country strategy notes and development of approaches and methods for tailored special protection measures;

(b) Strengthening of partnerships with Governments and relevant organizations through collaboration in research, systematic information

exchange, technical support and capacity-building, and the development of common advocacy and public awareness-raising strategies;

(c) Strengthening of UNICEF intersectoral task forces at country, regional and headquarters locations or support teams on specific child protection issues such as child labour and HIV/AIDS.

11. A key strategy to promote and implement the new policy is the establishment of specific country, regional and global technical support networks (TSNs). The overall objective of the strategy is to implement a broader approach to child protection and children in need of special protection measures and to learn, document and disseminate good practices. It is expected that the TSNs, which will be linked together, will:

(a) Produce more creative use of knowledge and experience through the linking of experts and practitioners from UNICEF and other organizations;

(b) Accelerate the process of systematic learning to enable UNICEF and its partners to act more efficiently to protect children at risk or already disadvantaged;

(c) Ensure focused programmatic responses to country-specific priorities regarding children in need of special protection measures;

(d) Promote the use of participatory approaches that involve communities and, most particularly, young people and women in taking action to protect children from situations that harm their development, and support special protection measures when necessary;

(e) Mobilize additional human and financial resources at country, regional and global levels by raising awareness through systematic monitoring and documentation.

12. Specific TSN objectives are:

(a) To facilitate access to relevant technical knowledge, research and experience;

(b) To generate innovative ideas and programming strategies;

(c) To strengthen cooperation and collaboration with recipient Governments and other United Nations agencies and to build strategic alliances with universities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs);

(d) To raise awareness of circumstances that put children at special disadvantage and of programming and advocacy for children in need of special protection;

(e) To provide guidance on behavioural approaches that enable families and communities to change their attitudes and behaviour with respect to children at risk and increase their recognition of their primary roles in protecting children from vulnerable or hazardous situations.

13. The response from regions and UNICEF country offices has been positive. A TSN is already in operation in the East Asia and Pacific region in the form of a formalized network of project officers or focal points for children in

especially difficult circumstances (CEDC), health and education advisers and a project committee on child protection under the Standing Committee on Programme of the regional management team (RMT). The TSN is linked to Child Rights Asianet, a regional NGO network based in Bangkok, comprising over 100 NGOs addressing issues such as child labour, sexual exploitation, HIV/AIDS and juvenile justice. Work plan priorities for 1997 include follow-up to the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (training of law enforcement personnel, support to the development of national action plans, research) held in Stockholm in August 1996, a regional consultation on child labour in preparation of the forthcoming Oslo Conference on the subject, a project on unregistered children and follow-up to the meeting on juvenile justice held in Hanoi in 1995.

14. In Eastern and Southern Africa, a regional TSN is expected to be established by the end of 1997, building on the existing Child Protection Network (CPN), comprising the regional adviser and CEDC project officers/focal points. Priority issues, as determined by CPN, are children affected by armed conflict, the impact of HIV/AIDS, child labour and sexual abuse. CPN is closely linked with the regional AIDS/Youth Network. Electronic communication has been established to link CPN with both the regional office and headquarters. In late 1996, a CPN consultation decided on regional priorities, country participation and the selection of participants drawn from UNICEF regional and country offices, relevant United Nations agencies, NGOs and academic institutions. A TSN for the West and Central Africa region is expected to be in place by June 1997, following the appointment of a regional adviser. Regional networks are also expected to be in place in the Middle East and Central and Eastern Europe regions by the end of 1997.

15. TSNs will meet regularly over a two- to three-year period and will focus on innovative approaches, undertake research and documentation, and provide support to the country-level programming process, from initial assessment to programme evaluation. Lessons learned will shape the design and content of new child protection programming guidelines, which will serve as a basis for expanding effective programming approaches and facilitate their replication throughout regions and countries.

16. The development of a TSN approach in the area of special protection will require specific approaches and programme-related knowledge for the different types of situations. Consequently, TSNs may consider the establishment of issue-based technical teams to address various priorities. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, for example, a regional TSN on child labour, comprised of UNICEF, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and its International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour, and NGO partners has been established.

17. The advisory team in the Programme Division at headquarters, in collaboration with other units in the Division, will continue to support and facilitate regional consultations on the TSN strategy, to facilitate regional TSN initiatives and to identify relevant international partners (organizations, universities, individual experts) for participation in global and regional TSNs. The advisory team will also function as the secretariat for the global TSN, ensure linkages with other sections and task forces on specific issues, share information and arrange for, or provide, technical support to regional and country offices as required.

II. COUNTRY PROGRAMMING

18. The guiding framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child has influenced how country programmes address special protection issues and subsequent strategies for appropriate programme interventions. With the establishment of new regional adviser posts in South Asia and West Africa, a global team of regional focal points is in place. The advisory team at headquarters has been strengthened with three new posts. Most of the increases in programme funds and posts are supported through increased supplementary funds, but general resources allocated for special protection programmes have also been increasing.

19. Adoption of the policy on special protection measures coincided with a generous contribution of supplementary funding for programme and policy development provided by the Government of the Netherlands and the Dutch National Committee for UNICEF. The availability of these additional resources has provided an impetus for implementation steps.

A. Revision of programming instruments

20. Efforts to introduce a perspective of child-risk assessment, reflecting special disadvantages and situations exposing children to exploitation, abuse or neglect, in new programming guidelines is under way and will be completed by September 1997. Additionally, an analysis of relevant partnerships is crucial, as most special protection measures require partnerships and strategic alliances with Government and civil society. Such guidelines - based on the "triple A approach" of assessment, analysis and action - will be incorporated in the overall revision of the situation analysis, guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in collaboration with the Division of Evaluation, Policy and Planning.

21. The development of tools for the measurement and evaluation of child protection issues is under way, in collaboration with the Division of Evaluation, Policy and Planning, the University of Cambridge and Childwatch International. The joint effort includes a training programme for UNICEF monitoring and evaluation officers. By the end of 1997, it is expected that a core cadre of approximately 50 staff members will possess the new skills. The project also responds to a request by the Committee on the Rights of the Child for technical support in the area of development of child rights indicators.

22. For the development of indicators, monitoring instruments and guidelines specifically related to childhood disability, intersectoral collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs have been established. Within UNICEF, relevant sections in Programme Division, along with the Office of Emergency Operations and the Division of Evaluation, Policy and Planning collaborate with the child protection advisory team.

B. Building partnerships for sustainability

23. Establishing linkages with and strengthening the work of relevant partners (national and local governments, other United Nations agencies, international and local NGOs, universities and media, etc.) is the fundamental means of achieving sustainability. Consequently, the reinforcement, or establishment of

partnerships at global, regional and national levels is crucial, e.g., the TSN concept described above. The eventual aim is to institutionalize these networks and partnerships, with the members of these groups and the organizations they represent becoming self-reliant and independent in securing funding for their own programmes.

24. As part of the institutionalization process, it will be important that TSNs form partnerships and maintain open communication with local community-based organizations (i.e., women's groups, youth organizations) to ensure an ongoing dialogue and encourage community ownership and readiness to act at the local level.

25. Ultimately, the goal, as established by the World Summit for Children, is to "tackle the root causes of CEDC" through programmes that lead to universalization of protection and basic services for children. Sustaining such universal services and protection for children will only be achieved with a global transformation based on a full realization of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In order to achieve this transformation, the partnerships UNICEF builds with countries must reach out to involve and empower women and children, especially among the poor, exploited and neglected groups in society. This process must take place at all levels, but most importantly among families and local communities. Increasing their sense of ownership of the problems and understanding of potential solutions that can be applied, as well as the participation of young people and women from hard-to-reach groups, will foster communities that feel empowered both individually and collectively to take action. This is already under way within UNICEF through its renewed commitment to country programming that helps countries themselves to address deeper structural changes through community development and organization of the poor and disadvantaged groups. At the global level, UNICEF has begun to take somewhat bolder stands on serious violations of children's rights. Recent examples include the new Anti-War Agenda, support to the Graça Machel Study on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children, support of the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and the 1997 State of the World's Children report, which focused on child labour and outlined strategies for action.

26. The main thrust of UNICEF collaboration with countries and partner organizations focuses on the development of methods for assessment, analysis and action (the triple A approach). As these are developed, reflecting the new policy, programming approaches will be improved. Such efforts will facilitate and strengthen the dialogue with Governments on critical aspects of child rights.

27. Partnerships with United Nations agencies and programmes (ILO, UNESCO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and WHO) have been strengthened in terms of policy coordination and the development of methodological tools and training. With ILO, this has included the development of new legislative instruments, new concept papers and training materials related to child labour. Cooperation with UNHCR focuses on the development of joint policies and training materials for programme interventions. Joint programming approaches are being developed with UNAIDS through the Children in a World of AIDS initiative. The aim is to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on children and their families, to strengthen the capacity of children and their families to cope with HIV/AIDS, and to make their

social environments more supportive. Plans are under way to carry out an assessment of the needs of infected children, affected children and all children who have to grow and live in the time of HIV/AIDS. UNICEF and UNAIDS will also identify key partners and successful approaches, especially at community level, and will work with countries to pilot responses to prevent and reduce the impact of AIDS on children, youth and their parents. Other areas of UNICEF collaboration with UNAIDS include full participation in several inter-agency working groups on issues such as especially vulnerable young people, communications, evaluation, gender aspects and school settings, as well as intensive collaboration in preparation for the 1997 World AIDS Day/Year, with the theme being "Children in a World with AIDS".

28. Collaboration with WHO focuses on support to joint training/capacity-building projects, instruments of assessing child abuse and community-based rehabilitation programmes for children with disabilities worldwide. A new joint initiative is under way for the preparation of training materials designed for use in post-conflict situations. It also involves collaboration within the Programme on Substance Abuse/Street Children.

29. Collaboration has also been strengthened with selected NGO partners at country, regional and global locations, with specific emphasis on programme support. Key global partner organizations include Childwatch in the area of measurement and monitoring, the development of child protection indicators and local research; the International Working Group on Child Labour (IWGCL) on methods for children's participation; Radda Barnen and other members of the International Save the Children Alliance (ISCA) and International Catholic Child Bureau in the areas of programme approaches related to youth in crisis and sexual exploitation and trafficking of children; Rehabilitation International and Radda Barnen on prevention and services for children with disabilities; and Defence for Children International (DCI) in the area of juvenile justice and children in conflict with the law.

III. UNICEF ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT IN SELECTED SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS

A. Economic exploitation of children

30. The 1997 State of the World's Children report features child labour as the main theme. The report constitutes a major contribution to the global awareness and understanding of the complexities that surround child labour and also articulates a set of specific actions to be taken as comprehensive solutions. These are immediate elimination of hazardous and exploitative child labour; the provision of free and compulsory education; wider legal protection; birth registration of all children; data collection and monitoring; and codes of conduct and procurement policies. The Letter of Intent between ILO and UNICEF to guide joint efforts of the two organizations opens new possibilities for inter-agency collaboration in this area.

31. Several country initiatives are under way. In Bangladesh, a partnership between the Garment Manufacturers Association, UNICEF and ILO seeks to remove child workers from the garment industry and provide educational opportunities. A number of programmes to eliminate child labour have been launched in India, with increased education budget allocations in 11 states. Pakistan hosted the third South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation ministerial conference on

children, which adopted the Rawalpindi Resolution calling for the elimination of bonded and hazardous child labour by the year 2000. In Brazil, UNICEF supports projects providing education grants, modest "scholarships" for low-income families to compensate from lost income of children who attend school.

32. In order to develop an organizational policy and capacity in the area of child labour, an intersectoral task force has been established. The task force, which includes headquarters and field staff, was instrumental in providing substantive input during the preparation of the State of the World's Children report, and has assigned high priority to capacity-building. A training programme has been developed in collaboration with the International Child Development Centre in Florence and external consultants. The initial phase will prepare 25-30 programme and project officers to oversee the development, planning, implementation and evaluation of child labour activities with a high degree of competence and full cognizance of the complex and interrelated issues involved. The training programme will equip staff with a complete conceptual map of important child labour issues which must be addressed in undertaking new activities or improving existing ones. They will also obtain an up-to-date understanding of global research and experience in this area, acquire general child labour knowledge and skills, and be trained in the use of practical tools for planning and evaluating child labour programmes. The first training workshop is scheduled for June 1997, and the process will be overseen by an advisory committee comprising the task force on child labour and technical experts.

33. In early 1997, the task force on child labour provided support to the Amsterdam Conference on Intolerable Forms of Child Labour through collaboration with IWGCL and input to panel discussions on international instruments on the most intolerable forms of child labour; globalization, liberalization and child labour; and international and regional cooperation.

34. The task force on child labour is currently providing support to the preparatory process in connection with the forthcoming Oslo Conference on Child Labour. Issue papers are being prepared on the role of education with regard to child labour, social and economic policies for the elimination of hazardous and exploitative child work, and social mobilization against child labour from a child rights perspective. Additionally, the overall conference background paper and outcome documents will be prepared jointly with the ILO. Regional consultations will also be arranged prior to the conference.

B. The impact of armed conflict on children

35. UNICEF actions to ensure the protection of children and women in emergencies reflect the perspective of special protection measures in line with the stipulations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The detailed operational framework is outlined in the report "Children and women in emergencies: strategic priorities and operational concerns for UNICEF" (E/ICEF/1997/7), endorsed by the Executive Board at its first regular session in January 1997 (E/ICEF/1997/12 (Part I)).

36. The report on "The Impact of Armed Conflict on Children", the result of two years of detailed research under the leadership of Mrs. Graça Machel, was presented to the Third Committee of the United Nations in November 1996. According to the report, 2 million children have died in armed conflicts in the past decade, and three times as many have been seriously injured or permanently

disabled. Many more die as a result of the indirect effects of war, such as the destruction of health centres and water supplies. Many have been forced to witness or even take part in horrifying acts of violence.

37. The report makes a number of recommendations: the banning of the recruitment into the armed forces of children under the age of 18 years; the prosecution of rape and sexual torture as war crimes; the complete ban on the production, use, trade and stockpiling of land-mines; the close monitoring by the international community of the impact of sanctions on children; and a stricter implementation of existing international treaties which protect children and civilians.

38. The Machel study provided the basis for the section related to the protection of children affected by armed conflict within the General Assembly's omnibus resolution on the rights of the child (51/77 of 12 December 1996). That resolution and the Assembly's resolution on the girl child (51/76 of 12 December 1996) were the two major resolutions adopted by the General Assembly under the item "Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child", and they provide important platforms for UNICEF and partners in its dialogue with Governments.

39. A UNICEF review of the Machel study has resulted in a series of specific proposals for follow-up: a leadership role for UNICEF in ensuring that the needs and rights of internally displaced children are met through the provision of essential services, protection from harm, psycho-social recovery and social rehabilitation; the promotion of codes of conduct to protect women and girls from sexual violence; and partnership with Radda Barnen/Swedish Save the Children in a global campaign to prevent the recruiting into the armed forces of children under the age of 18 years.

40. A working group on the protection of children affected by armed conflict, comprising staff of the UNICEF Programme Division, the Office of Emergency Programmes, the Division of Communication and the Office of United Nations Affairs and External Relations has been established at UNICEF headquarters. A major undertaking for 1997 will be a joint training initiative in Eastern and Southern Africa with UNHCR and ISCA.

C. Sexual abuse and exploitation of children

41. The World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, which gathered representatives of 122 Governments, more than 400 NGO representatives and a large number of intergovernmental organizations, was the culmination of a global mobilization against commercial sexual exploitation of children, initiated by the End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT) campaign. UNICEF participated in the preparatory process along with the Swedish Host Committee, ECPAT and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (representing 38 international NGOs). The preparatory process included six regional consultations, facilitated by UNICEF, with Government and NGO participation. A Declaration and Agenda for Action was prepared, circulated and discussed globally prior to the Congress and adopted in Stockholm.

42. The impact of the Congress was reflected in the adoption of the above-mentioned General Assembly resolutions following the Third Committee discussion of the item on the rights of the child. UNICEF participated in discussions with representatives of United Nations missions and provided advice

regarding the various resolutions. In several countries, including Brazil, Costa Rica, Madagascar, Nepal, Thailand, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, UNICEF is currently providing support to the development and implementation of national plans, including measures in areas such as legal reform, training of law enforcement personnel and implementation of advocacy and rehabilitation programmes. A regional project in the East Asia and Pacific region addressing trafficking of children for sexual purposes continues, with a series of training initiatives targeting relevant government personnel.

43. Programmatic follow-up to the Congress will continue to focus on education, legal reform and training of law enforcement officials, and recovery/reintegration of children subjected to sexual exploitation. Interventions are planned on the basis of a situation assessment at the country level and are complemented by regional/global efforts, as appropriate. At the global level, a strategic alliance has been formed among UNICEF, ECPAT and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (comprising 38 international NGOs). The group has agreed to function as a global technical support group for the collection and dissemination of information; and project collaboration, including the provision of specific expertise and support to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

D. Childhood disability

44. Collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies, NGO partners and academic institutions has been strengthened. A number of inter-agency consultations have been undertaken on issues related to capacity-building and management training, community-based rehabilitation, the impact of land-mines, the development of indicators, and assessment tools and guidelines. Similar consultations have been held with NGO partners and universities, including Radda Barnen (Swedish Save the Children), Handicap International, Rehabilitation International, Harvard University and Manchester University. Collaboration with Rehabilitation International is continuing through the "One in Ten" newsletter on childhood disability with worldwide distribution.

45. Emerging concerns in the area of childhood disability include indigenous children with disabilities and children maimed by land-mines. In line with the UNICEF Anti-War Agenda, an animation film on land-mines is being produced. The main messages of the film aim to raise awareness and educate children to prevent injuries and deal with psychological trauma and to facilitate social integration of children in the community for children who are already disabled.

E. Deficient judicial processes/juvenile justice

46. Juvenile justice, an emerging area of concern for UNICEF, is also given high priority by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in its discussions with States Parties. The Committee has also had a thematic discussion on this topic. During the past year, the United Nations Crime Prevention Branch in Vienna and the Centre for Human Rights have initiated a dialogue with UNICEF, and specific guidelines regarding juvenile justice will be developed by the end of 1997.

47. In the Americas and the Caribbean, a regional juvenile justice project is being implemented in close collaboration with the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Treatment of Crime and Treatment of Offenders and DCI focusing

on juvenile justice system reform in several countries. The main activities include technical assistance in drafting new laws and advocacy for legislative reform. Activities of this kind have been supported in Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. The training of police, judges and other relevant personnel categories are being sponsored in many of the above-mentioned countries.

48. Asian countries where UNICEF is providing support to juvenile justice initiatives include Pakistan, where advocacy and research began in 1993, leading to an agreement in 1996 with the National Commission on Child Welfare and Development on law reform and the preparation of training materials for judges, police and others. UNICEF is also involved with juvenile justice initiatives in Viet Nam (in collaboration with Radda Barnen/Swedish Save the Children) and in the Philippines.

49. In Egypt, UNICEF recently published a study on juvenile justice. The Jordan country office is supporting the drafting of new legislation on this issue. In Namibia, UNICEF supported a study on children in prison, which resulted in the creation of a Juvenile Justice Forum, which has undertaken a broader reform of the system for the treatment of juvenile offenders.

F. New country-level project initiatives

50. As a key component of the CEDC policy and programme development 1996/97 project, funded by the Government of the Netherlands and the Dutch National Committee for UNICEF, more than 30 country-level projects have been developed. The projects address specific priority areas, mainly the economic exploitation of children, sexual abuse and exploitation (follow-up to the World Congress Agenda for Action), juvenile justice and childhood disability.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

A. Regional centres of technical support

51. Regional child protection advisers or focal points provide direct support to country offices and country programmes. Most regions now have full-time regional advisers, with the recent recruitment of an adviser in West and Central Africa. An adviser is also expected to be appointed in the South Asia region by mid-year. The advisers participate in the preparation and follow-up of country programmes, maintain a close dialogue with CEDC/child protection focal points through regional networks, facilitate network consultations and maintain links with regional NGOs and academic institutions that can be used for additional technical assistance. The advisers also promote intercountry exchanges of experience and expertise and are members of the global UNICEF Child Protection Network.

52. Staff based in regional and country offices provide input into the planning process and contribute to the further development of UNICEF programme strategies in the relevant areas. They interpret the policy on special protection measures in the context of their respective regions and establish priorities in consultation with country office focal points and RMTs. In this connection, yearly consultations of all CEDC/child protection focal points are organized.

B. New York advisory team

Core team in Programme Division

53. The headquarters advisory team has been strengthened with three professionals, focusing specifically on childhood disability, child labour and the impact of armed conflict on children in order to meet new demands in the area of special protection. At present, the team is focusing on providing support as required for the establishment of the regional TSNs, as mentioned above, and for further strengthening of intersectoral linkages. Furthermore, the collection of information, analysis, "peer reviews" and the dissemination of best practices are given priority in the context of programme knowledge acquisition and information exchange. The team has recently established electronic communication links with the Eastern and Southern Africa CPN. Links with other regions are to be in place by mid-1997. The following specific tasks have been identified for 1997:

(a) Programme knowledge acquisition drawing on various centres of knowledge, primarily key partners, experts and research institutions. A first phase, to be completed by June 1997, will include the systematic collection and analysis of information on UNICEF-supported activities and projects in the area of special protection. The second phase, to be completed by September 1997, will focus on the development of criteria for the identification of best practices, with a specific emphasis on child labour, sexual exploitation and childhood disability;

(b) Programme knowledge dissemination, including improved communication mechanisms with regional and country offices, the production of selected publications, and collaboration with key NGOs to develop information exchange systems related to child exploitation, abuse, neglect and flagrant violations of children's rights;

(c) Bulletin board for UNICEF and Internet postings on the UNICEF home page by June 1997;

(d) Development of a basic set of indicators as tools for situation assessment, analysis and monitoring in the form of input to the process of programming guidelines;

(e) Global partnerships, with the team is continuing to strengthen collaboration with relevant global NGO networks such as ISCA, the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, academic institutions and United Nations agencies.

Policy setting

54. UNICEF work in the area of special protection is evolving, and the organization is in a learning mode. As programmatic capacities are strengthened, and building on organization-wide experience gained through specific programmes and partnerships, policy and implementation strategies will be adjusted and enhanced, as required.

Resource mobilization

55. The advisory team proposes criteria for the allocation of both general resources and supplementary funding that can be mobilized and accepted in the area of special protection. A close collaboration has been initiated with the UNICEF Programme Funding Office in this regard, along with an enhanced dialogue on special protection issues with major donors.

V. DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

56. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board adopt the following draft recommendation:

The Executive Board,

Having reviewed the report on "Children in need of special protection measures: report on steps for policy implementation" (E/ICEF/1997/16),

Endorses the overall approach for implementing the policy on children in need of special protection measures as contained in the report, taking into account the comments made by delegations at the present session.